

The  
Minneapolis "V" Chess Club

50th Anniversary  
Souvenir

•  
1895-1945  
•

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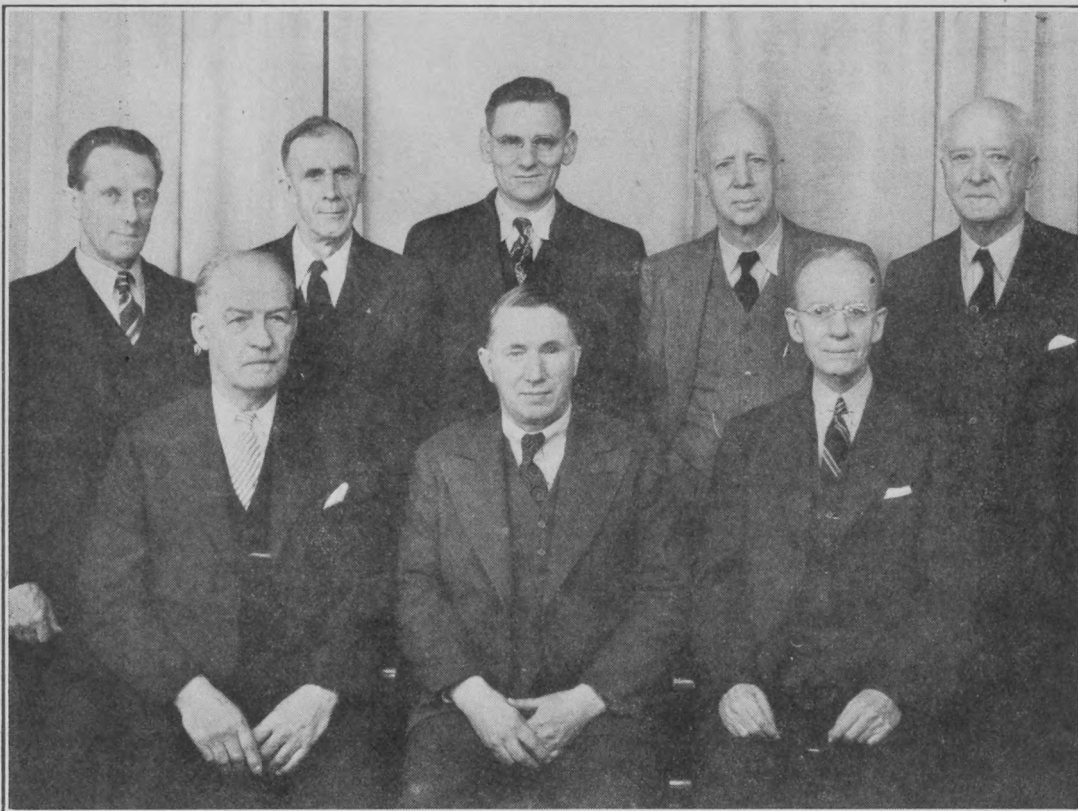
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## Club Officers and Members of the Special 50th Anniversary Committee



**FRONT ROW: Left to Right—**

REV. CANON H. L. ROY, Past-President (8 yrs.); President Manitoba Chess Assn. (9 yrs.); Past-President and Honorary Life Member, Chess Federation of Canada.

P. M. CHISWELL, Club President, Chess Editor of *The Winnipeg Tribune*.

G. M. MCGUIRE, Honorary President, Club Bard and Soloist.

**BACK ROW: Left to Right—**

H. GREGORY, Dean of present Membership (40 yrs.); Chess Editor, *The Winnipeg Free Press*.

C. BECK, Vice-President and Club Curator.

S. F. COOPER, Club Secretary, and Secretary of the Manitoba Chess Assn.; Past-Secretary of the Chess Federation of Canada.

DR. W. W. WRIGHT, Past-President, and member of long standing (35 yrs.).

PROF. O. KENDRICK, Vice-President and Musical Director for the Club.

# The President's Message

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IT is a signal honour to be President of this Club on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary, an honour of which I am not so worthy as others of its Membership.

We all owe a debt to the past, as we go through life surrounded by the creations of the hands or brains of those who have preceded us, or who have sooner completed their tasks, and whose works remain for our use and benefit. The clothes we wear; the vehicles in which we ride; the buildings which house us; and the food we eat, are all mute evidence of many unknown hands or personalities which in due time and season made all these things ready for our use today and from day to day.

And so it is with Chess. In the dim and distant past, so lost and remote, an unknown human mind or minds conceived the idea of the Game—the Art—the Science, which has given so much pleasure to countless generations of humanity. To attempt to write an eulogy of Chess would be a work of supererogation indeed! Chess is old, and timeless, and enduring, while man as an entity, is so transient. Chess will be played by countless generations yet to come, and will continue to be a challenge to the intellect; a battleground which strangely unites victor and vanquished in bonds of fellowship and understanding. It has been well said that Chess “has the power to make men happy,” and it has been well described as “the image of war, without any of the guilt of those who practice that art,” and so, it will continue.

We have remembered in this Souvenir, some of the old-timers and Pioneers of our Club, as well as some of their number who have journeyed Beyond. We owe a debt to many of these founders of our Club, who first made possible some of its facilities which we still use today. We have not named nearly all our old-timers or Pioneers, but only a representative few who were best-known and best-loved, or whom it is most fitting to remember on this special occasion. In this way some of us also, may hope to be remembered as our Club continues on towards its Centenary, beyond the hills of Time.

In conclusion, I should like to pay special tribute to the members of the Special Committee, the Club Executive, and the Ladies' Committee who have all contributed to make fitting observance of our 50th Anniversary possible. Most of all, I should like to pay tribute to my immediate predecessor in office, Rev. Canon H. L. Roy, who could himself have continued as President as long as he had wished. His energy and zeal is widely known, and his enthusiasm in the cause of Chess merit for him a very special place in the regard of all who play the Game.

P. M. CHISWELL,  
*President.*

# Programme of Events

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## 50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Wednesday, November 21st, 1945  
at 8.00 p.m.,

*Under the Distinguished Patronage of His Worship the Mayor of Winnipeg,*  
MR. GARNET COULTER, K.C.

1. RECEPTION AND CONVERSAZIONE.
2. "CHESS SKITTLES."
3. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS .....*Mr. P. M. Chiswell*
4. GREETINGS.....*from His Worship the Mayor of Winnipeg*  
GREETINGS.....*from the "Y" Management, hosts of the Club*  
GREETINGS.....*from other City Clubs*
5. SONG AND CHORUS .....*Mr. John Ferguson, leader*
6. REMINISCENCES ..... *Messrs. H. Gregory, C. D. Corbould, and I. Hurwitz*
7. SONG .....*Mr. G. M. McGuire*
8. GOODWILL MESSAGES ..... *Rev. Canon H. L. Roy*
9. SONG AND CHORUS .....*Mr. John Ferguson*
10. DISTRIBUTION AND REVIEW OF SOUVENIR BOOKLET.
11. REFRESHMENTS.
12. TOAST TO THE LADIES .....*Dr. W. W. Wright*
13. "AULD LANG SYNE."
14. ADJOURNMENT.

# Club Executive, 1945

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## *Honorary President*

G. M. MCGUIRE

## *President*

P. M. CHISWELL

## *Vice-Presidents*

C. BECK

O. KENDRICK

## *Secretary-Treasurer*

S. F. COOPER

## *Past-President*

REV. CANON H. L. ROY

## CLUB MEMBERS, 1944-45

F. ANDERSON	J. W. LAWSON
MRS. W. BODO ( <i>honorary</i> )	J. H. LEWIS
E. C. BOIRE	W. A. MOLLOY
N. B. BLONAR	H. MCKEAN
D. M. CAMPBELL	J. W. MCCLELLAN
J. F. CONN	A. MANSELL
D. DYMA	DR. F. J. MOFFATT
D. R. DUNCAN	R. MULLINS
G. B. GILLESPIE	D. B. MERRITT
C. GOSBEE	C. F. MUNTUN
T. R. GORDON	ALEX. MUSHEY
C. F. GODFREY	C. NOYES
H. GREGORY	P. SIDNEY
J. HALLDORSON	S. STONIER
G. HILL	G. B. STRINGER
H. P. HANSEN	W. J. SHAW
P. HILDEBRANDT	H. W. TREVOR
B. HENDERSON	J. A. WILLIAMS
J. A. HOWARD	DR. W. W. WRIGHT

## LADIES' 50th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

MESDAMES BODO, HOWARD, MANSELL, MCGUIRE AND NOYES  
MISSES BODO, MANSELL, MCGUIRE AND ROY

# Honour Roll



## Members and Ex-Members in the Armed Forces 1939-1945

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W. C. BARSS  
E. A. CANFIELD  
DOUG. COWIE  
L. A. FAST  
C. W. HARRIS  
G. HILL  
C. R. HOPPER  
R. D. ISAAC  
G. JOHNSTON  
J. H. LEWIS

JACK MCKENTY  
C. P. MARSHALL  
GEO. PALMER  
L. PARKINSON  
P. SLAVIN  
R. L. SMALL  
J. STEPHENS  
A. ROBINSON  
A. WILD  
LT.-COL. W. W. WRIGHT

## Greetings TO THE Winnipeg Chess Club ON THEIR Golden Jubilee

HERB. GREGORY  
*President*

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# “Old Timers” and Chess Pioneers formerly associated with the Club, remembered at this time

---

J. H. ALEXANDER  
CHARLES BLAKE  
H. H. BURRELL  
C. D. CORBOULD  
W. R. CUNNINGTON  
R. DRISCOLL  
G. D. GILBERT  
E. H. GREEN  
S. HALL  
E. S. LANCASHIRE

GEO. R. MACKAY  
A. R. MAGNUSSON  
E. R. MOORHOUSE  
L. R. PARSONS  
E. POTTER  
C. SCOTT  
G. H. VOWLES  
H. H. WALLBANK  
J. E. WILDMAN

## In Memoriam

Chess Pioneers and Kindly Remembered Personalities  
Who Have “Passed On”

Very Rev. Dean Coombes  
Gen. Patterson  
Palmerston Barry  
R. J. Spencer  
Prof. J. H. Cross  
A. A. Barrett  
A. Rhenubottom

E. E. Best  
Gen. Howard  
H. Vockney  
E. T. Boyce  
A. H. Hardy  
W. H. Womersley

# Greetings from the Manitoba Chess Association

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IT is my great privilege and pleasure, as secretary of the Manitoba Chess Association, to extend, on behalf of its affiliated Clubs, warmest congratulations to the Winnipeg "Y" Chess Club on the occasion of its 50th Anniversary.

This Club has become one of the ranking clubs in the Dominion; its enriching influence in the Cause of Chess has been felt throughout the length and breadth of our land.

To our Association it has been ever a source of strength and power. From its overflowing reservoir of Goodwill and Fellowship we have drawn deeply.

Through the years it has provided us with many of our most outstanding officials.

In addition, the Club graciously permits us the use of its fine chess room as the permanent headquarters of our Organization.

The Club has never stinted, financially or otherwise, in its support of the M.C.A. Indeed, it has always been more than generous.

In war, this Club gladly and freely opened its door to the Armed Forces of all the Services. No less great in peace, it offers the Returned Veteran a haven wherein he may learn to play the most absorbing, fascinating game in all the world.

Legion are the names of the players from this great Club who have entered in the many City of Winnipeg and Provincial Championships; Inter-Club, Inter-Provincial, and International Matches promoted by our Association. Engraved on our numerous trophies are the names of many followers of the Goddess "Caissa."

Fifty years in a work of love. Surely few clubs on this continent can surpass such a glorious record. Winnipeg "Y" Chess Club we salute you. Long may you live.

S. F. COOPER,  
*Secretary.*

# A Brief History of the Winnipeg "Y" Chess Club

By H. GREGORY

**A**S mighty oaks from little acorns grow, so from small beginnings has grown a Chess Club from which has evolved many other chess organizations in Winnipeg and throughout the Prairie Provinces.

The inception of the Club dates from Tuesday, September 24th, 1895, when eight gentlemen gathered in Austen's Shorthand College, then located in the Stovel Block on McDermot Ave., under the chairmanship of Rev. Canon Coombes. At this meeting, Mr. Geo. Patterson was elected the first President of the new Club with Geo. Austen as Secretary-Treasurer and W. H. Rooke as corresponding secretary. Other members of the Club included Messrs. D. H. Alston, Douglas McLean, H. Law and R. H. Pattinson. Among others who joined soon afterwards were Joseph Martin, M.P., and C. R. Winder.

The first activity recorded was a match of six boards a side with members of St. Andrews Society, and the first Club Championship was played in December, 1895, with fifteen entries.

Mr. Rooke was an enthusiastic correspondence secretary, and got in touch with chess players in other communities. Mr. R. N. Barber of Deloraine challenged Winnipeg players to a first match by correspondence.

Later, an all-comers tournament was proposed, and the first of such was played in 1897. This tournament was afterwards known as the North-West Championship Tournament. Mr. E. L. Drewry donated a cup for this event, which was won the first time by Mr. R. J. Spencer, which Championship he later won on nine other occasions.

Mr. Harry N. Pillsbury was the first Chess Master of note to visit Winnipeg, which visit occurred in 1899. Mr. Pillsbury played 23 games simultaneously, winning 20 and losing three. Those who won against him were: H. R. Pattinson, S. D. Morris and Magnus Smith, who also won the Canadian Championship in Montreal the same year.

The first Telegraph match was played against Montreal in 1904, and ended in a tie. Winnipeg winners were Professor Cross, and Messrs. Hill and Thordarson; while Mr. M. O. Smith drew his game. In the same year, the first handicap tournament was conducted for a medal donated by Mr. Jas. McDiarmid.

In the year 1905, Messrs. Charles Blake and H. H. Burrell played a match, and Magnus Smith gave a simultaneous exhibition on April 27th of that year.

In 1906, Professor Geza Maroczy, famous Hungarian Chess Master, on a mission to Canada, gave a simultaneous display at the Club. Among

those who played against him were Magnus Smith, Charles Blake, John E. Wildman and R. J. Spencer.

On June 11th, 1907, Dr. Emanuel Lasker, World's Champion, visited the Club, playing 14 games simultaneously, losing to R. W. Worsley of Yorkton and Magnus Smith of Winnipeg. Charles Blake won the title of North-West Champion from R. J. Spencer.

In 1908, the Club Championship had an entry of 28 players, amongst whom were such well-remembered personalities as J. Wildman, Professor Cross, Rev. Dean Coombes, F. E. Ullstrom and R. E. Davidson.

In 1911, Charles Blake won the Western United States championship at Excelsior, Minn.

In 1912, while the Club was located in the Enderton Block, Jose R. Capablanca, later World Champion, paid a visit. On October 28th, another telegraph match was played with Montreal, which was lost by Winnipeg  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . H. Gregory scoring the solitary win for Winnipeg, there being also three drawn games.

In 1914, Charles Blake having obtained permanent possession of the Club Championship Trophy, a new cup was purchased by donations, and was won the first time by H. Gregory, with Prof. Cross winning it in 1915.

In 1916, H. H. Burrell won the title of North-West Champion, but lost his title again to R. J. Spencer in the following year.

In 1918, Palmerston Barry won the North-West title, which again went back to R. J. Spencer in 1919. H. Gregory retained the new Club Championship Trophy, having won it three times.

In 1919, the Club was located in the Avenue Bldg., and the Muzio Gambit was much in fashion for "skittle games."

In 1920, the Winnipeg Chess Club was divided into three groups to form a District Chess League, in which the former Y.M.C.A. Club also had a team.

In 1922 the former Y.M.C.A. Club won the District League, with new clubs competing from the C.N.R. and Icelanders. Rev. Dean Coombes left Winnipeg for California.

In 1923, the City of Winnipeg Championship was instituted for the first time, and was won by H. Gregory. The Winnipeg Club played a match against the combined Clubs of the City and won.

In 1924, a telegraph match was played between Winnipeg and Vancouver Chess Clubs, Vancouver winning  $7\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Geo. Howard, one of our members, competed in the Dominion Championship Tourney at Hamilton. Bruno Forsberg visited the Club from New York.

In 1925, the District Chess League reached its highest peak, there being nine teams represented; The Winnipeg Chess Club, the Winnipeg Jewish Chess Club, The T. Eaton Chess Club, the C.N.R. Chess Club, the Icelandic Chess Club, St. Anne's Chess Club, Morse Place Chess Club, St. Matthews and Y.M.C.A. Chess Clubs.



In 1926, the Hungarian Master, Geza Maroczy again visited Winnipeg. E. S. Lancashire won the North-West Tourney.

In 1930, R. J. Spencer won the North-West Tourney for the last time that Tournament was played. Sir George Thomas, British Chess Master visited Winnipeg and played all comers at the Marlborough Hotel; 19 wins, six losses and five draws.

In 1932, Dr. A. Alekhine, World's Champion visited Winnipeg. The Manitoba Chess Association having come into being, a Manitoba Championship Tourney was organized to replace the former North-West Tourney.

In 1933, the Winnipeg Chess Club experienced some difficulty in operating owing to lack of suitable accommodation. The former Y.M.C.A. Chess Club having passed out of existence, an arrangement was made with the Y.M.C.A. to secure quarters in its building. The Club's name was modified to its present form, The Winnipeg "Y" Chess Club.

In 1935, Mr. Don Murray won the City Championship. A delegation from the various City Clubs visited Fargo, N.D., and played a match against a team from Minneapolis. This match was repeated in 1938 at Detroit Lakes, Minn.

In 1938, George Koltanowski, world's blindfold champion, visited Winnipeg and gave an exhibition.

In 1939, a team of the Winnipeg "Y" Club won the Inter-Club Championship (Birks Trophy). George Palmer won the Club Championship and the Dean Coombes Trophy. Reuben Fine, U.S. Chess Master, visited Winnipeg.

In 1940, J. A. Horowitz, another U.S. Chess Master visited Winnipeg, as did Miss May Karff, lady Chess Champion. Both gave exhibitions against all comers.

In 1941, W. J. Shaw won the Club Championship, and our Club was host to the Dominion Championship held in that year.

In 1941 also Rev. Canon H. L. Roy was elected President of the Canadian Chess Federation (now known as the Chess Federation of Canada).

With the termination of World War II, the Club looks forward to a period of renewed activity in Chess, as the many younger men of the fighting services again take up the threads of civilian life.

Centrally located, the Winnipeg "Y" Club is a rendezvous and the Mecca of visiting, and out-of-town players. Our visitors' book records each year, hundreds of names, and our "Welcome" sign is ever hung out to our visitors.

# Excerpts of Greetings from Other Clubs, Associations and Former Members

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From Charles Robillard, President, The Chess Federation of Canada,  
Montreal:

"Il est quelque fois un tres doux devoir a remplir pour celui qui dirige les destinees de la Federation des Echecs du Canada et aujourd'hui ce devoir est pour moi un grand honneur. Un 'Cinquantenaire' d'existence est un fait echiqueen remarquable et ces dates 1895-1945 sont memorables aux yeux de tous les adeptes tant des Etats Unis que du Canada car le Cercle d'Echecs Winnipeg qui celebre son 'Jubile d'Or' a droit aux felicitations et aux meilleurs voeux de tous les adeptes do noble jeu . . . Au nom de la Federation des Echecs du Canada et en mon nom personnel, permettez-moi d'offrir au 'Cercle d'Echecs Winnipeg' nos meilleurs voeux de longue vie echiqueenne."

From Fred M. Wren, President, Bluenose Chess Club, Halifax, N.S.:

"Upon learning through the Underground that you are celebrating your Golden Jubilee within a few days I cannot refrain from sending along a few lines of congratulation. As one who has had considerable experience in organizing chess clubs in the United States and Canada, I know that any club which has reached its fiftieth birthday deserves congratulation. At the same time I also know that spread along that fifty years is the work and time and money generously expended by hundreds of individuals, some of whom are undoubtedly unknown to you even by name. Organizations like yours do not just happen. They are made by someone, and when that someone passes out of the picture, there must be another someone—or several of them—to carry on the work . . . And so it goes. Times change and we change with them. The original founders of the Winnipeg Chess Club might not recognize "the old place" now, but it is certain that they would be proud of it, and I hope that some of them are still with you on the happy occasion of your fiftieth anniversary. Best regards from your friends in the Maritimes, and may your next fifty years be smooth and bright."

From H. H. Burrell, former member, now resident in Vancouver:

. . . "for half a century, the club has been that planet in the chess firmament round which all the other chess stars revolved, and so survived" . . .

From Mrs. Geo. Grant, Secretary, Alberta Chess Association, Edmonton:

"Knowledge in general expands the mind,  
Exalts the faculties,  
Refines the taste for pleasure,  
And opens innumerable sources of intellectual enjoyment."

"So it is with chess. Permit me to offer the members of the Winnipeg Chess Club my warmest congratulations on the attainment of the club's Golden Jubilee."

From Mr. R. Driscoll, Winnipeg, old-time member:

"For personal reasons flowing out of the accident that befell me in 1938, I shall, much to my regret, be unable to be among your guests for the fine programme you have arranged for the celebration of this important event . . . My best wishes for a successful celebration."

From Mr. E. R. Potter, Winnipeg, former member:

"I am indeed sorry that I cannot be with you for your Jubilee Celebrations . . . But I assure you that I will be with you in thought . . . If memory serves me correctly, I joined the Winnipeg Chess Club in the year 1908. The club rooms were in what was then the 90th Regiment Headquarters on Main St. The Camerons occupied the next building, and their band would practice two or three times each week. The windows were usually open and the effect on chess was not exactly encouraging—but we had one or two noisy members of the club, who enjoyed these nights more than any others because they were not under the usual restraint, and could make as much racket as they liked . . . My heartiest congratulations on your Golden Jubilee . . ."

Other messages were received too late to print, from:

Dr. R. C. Russell, Secretary, Saskatchewan Chess Association, Saskatoon.

Mr. L. M. Duval, Secretary, B.C. Chess Federation, Vancouver.

Mr. H. Kinney, Secretary, Bishop's Knight's Chess Club, Saskatoon.

The Vancouver Chess Club, and

Mr. Chas. Blake, Windsor, Ont.



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# Some Chess "Firsts"

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First Newspaper chess column, *Liverpool Mercury*, July 9th, 1813.

The first International Chess Tournament of positive record was played at Madrid in 1575, Ruy Lopez and Alfonso Ceron of Spain and Giovanni Leonardi and Paolo Boi of Italy. Leonardi won the Tournament.

The first International Tournament on a grand scale was at the Great Exhibition in London in 1851, won by the German master Adolf Anderssen.

The first Chess problem of record, dates from the 9th century, and is by an Arab composer.

The first chess magazine was started in Paris in 1836. It was called "*La Palamede*."

The first book on chess was published in Augsburg, in 1472, entitled "*Dass Goldin Spil*."

Two years later, William Caxton also printed a book, "*The Game and Playe of Chesse*," the first book to follow the Bible, printed in English.

The first chess match by telegraph was played in the year the telegraph was invented (1844), between Baltimore and Washington.

*Compliments*  
*of a*  
*Friend*



# Some Chess Mathematics

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**I**T has been computed that the number of different ways in which it is possible to play the first ten moves of each side, of a game of chess is

169,518,829,100,544,000,000,000,000

Boiled down, the above figures mean that if it were possible for every human being on the face of the earth to play continuously at the rate of one set of moves per minute, it would take the whole population of the earth some two hundred billion years to complete all possible variations.

—Mason's "*Principles of Chess*."

## SOMETHING ABOUT KINGS

The two Kings may stand on the board in 3,612 different legal positions.

White K at K1 may play to K8 on an empty board in 393 different ways in seven moves; and in 5,704 different ways in eight moves. He may go from Q4 to K5 in eight moves in 359,800 different ways.

White K at K1 and Black K at K1, played alternately in seven legal moves, may exchange positions in 28,008 different ways.

## QUEENS

If the two Queens are placed on the board at random, the chance of no capture is 23/36.

The Queen may traverse the 64 squares of the board in a 14-move tour in only three ways. She has 864 triangular 3-move tours not traversing every square.

## ROOKS

Two White and two Black Rooks may stand on the board so that each has two captures in 1,568 different ways.

The Rook may visit all the 64 squares once each in 15 moves, but no one knows yet in how many different ways.

## BISHOPS

Two White and two Black Bishops may stand on the board so that each has two captures in 392 different ways.

The Bishop may visit all 32 squares of his own colour in 16 moves.

Moving one square at a time, a Bishop may make a journey from K1 to K7 in eight moves, in 483 different ways.

## KNIGHTS

Two White and two Black Knights may stand so that each has two captures in 296 different ways. One Knight of each colour may stand unmoved so that his opposition is unable to capture the unmoved Knight in three moves or less in 144 different ways, or in four moves or less in 23 different ways.

As everyone knows, a Knight may make a complete "tour" of the board in 63 moves. The total number of ways in which it can be done is not known, but it is estimated to be in the neighborhood of 600,000,000,000 different ways.

## PAWNS

Four Pawns on a second rank may advance to Queen without capture in 66,528,000 different ways.

## ALL THE PIECES

All the pieces may be set up in legal positions on the board, as for a game, in 208,089,907,200 different ways. They may stand on the board, regardless of legality in  $7,534,686,312,361,225,327 \times 10^{33}$  positions.

NOTE: If you don't believe this, figure it out for yourself!

The eight principal pieces on each side, may be set up on their first rank, so that every one is on a wrong square in 772 different ways.

The 32 pieces may stand on the board in a legal position, so that the greatest choice of immediate moves is 158.

—T. R. Dawson in "*Chess Pie*."

---

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